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in Raleigh, N.C., protest U.S. intervention in Central America.

Churches: Moral Critics U.S. Aid to Contras

by Sessions Stepp
Washington Post Staff Writer

More owner Jerry North Carolina Republic supporter of President Reagan, had never questioned U.S. aid to the contras before they came to Nicaragua with a mission three years ago.

54, an Episcopalian, and children living in a small apartment building put water one block away in downtown Manassas, Va., cinderblock houses along the road to the airport. "It's not better, for some, life is better. He talked at everyone he met, and he changed man."

"He died," he said. "The contras to fight the regime would not end in Nicaragua, he told the church groups in his hometown. Negotiations in the region

in an interview last week. "This thing has got to stop."

With those words, McBrayer joined a coalition of mainline Protestants, Catholics and Jews who in the last five years have been the loudest and most consistent critics of the Reagan administration's policy of military intervention in Central America, according to members of Congress, lobbyists and spokesmen for the administration.

Not since the waning days of the Vietnam war have mainstream churchgoers become galvanized around a foreign policy issue to that extent, church leaders say.

A legislative newsletter called Impact '88, sponsored by 17 Protestant, Catholic and Jewish groups and focused on the upcoming congressional campaigns, is blunt: "For Americans, the number one moral problem of this decade is public policy in Central America."

The impact these churches have

Explosions of Weapons Destroyed by Blasts In Pakistani Capital

Much of Ordnance Slated for Afghan Rebels

By Richard M. Weintraub
Washington Post Foreign Service

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, April 13—The explosions at an ammunition dump Sunday in the Pakistani capital region destroyed "thousands of tons" of arms and ammunition, much of it destined for Afghan guerrillas battling Soviet forces and the communist regime in Afghanistan, according to sources in Pakistan and congressional sources in Washington.

It was a "major logistical setback," said one congressional source who had been briefed on Sunday's explosions, which shook the capital region for more than an hour and sent thousands of pieces of ordnance raining down as far as six miles from the explosion site.

While no U.S. diplomat or Pakistani official will acknowledge the covert aid program for the Afghan guerrillas, which has funneled hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of supplies to them during more than eight years of the war, a diplomat said today that the aid flow to the guerrillas is "under control" despite the explosions.

U.S. officials in Washington have acknowledged that special shipments of the \$300 million in aid approved this year are being sent to the rebel forces in anticipation of Thursday's signing of accords in Geneva calling for withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. Saudi Arabia is said to be providing an equal amount of arms aid.

The Ojheri camp, where the explosions occurred, is believed to have been used to store arms for the rebels for only a few months, and a number of other locations that have been used throughout the war were unaffected by the Sunday explosions.

Congressional sources in Washington said, however, that there may have been casualties among key personnel involved in the Afghan resupply program. If so, this could cause greater problems than the loss of materiel, as the entire

within Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence unit.

Under the Geneva accords, Pakistan and Afghanistan, and the United States and the Soviet Union as guarantors, are to pledge noninterference in each other's affairs, implying a cutoff in arms assistance. But Washington has insisted on a concept of "symmetry" under which it would continue to supply the rebels if Moscow supplies the Kabul regime.

Should it become evident that Moscow is no longer supplying the government of Najibullah after the accord goes into effect on May 15, the United States and Pakistan would appear to be bound to halt aid to the resistance forces. This would leave only a month to rush supplies across the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

There has been no accounting of the types of munitions that exploded on Sunday or of the exact amounts and value, but reporters walking through ordnance-strewn fields adjacent to the explosion site about an hour after the main blast stopped saw hundreds of 122mm rocket tubes, 107mm rocket charges, 120mm mortar shells and assorted mines, detonators and warheads.

One knowledgeable Pakistani journalist with close contacts in the military said that there also are reports that as many as 25 Stinger missiles may have been at the blast site. U.S. officials have said they are stopping the shipment of Stingers to the guerrillas to cut down the risk of theft or loss, but many could still be in the supply pipeline.

According to one Pakistani source, the explosions began when materiel that had come in overnight by plane to a military airport near the Ojheri camp ammunition dump was being loaded onto trucks. The amount of munitions destroyed was far more than one plane could carry.

While there is increasing evidence that the Afghan resistance

The accord...
istan and the Soviet-backed Afghan government, nearly six years in the making, will provide the international basis for withdrawal of the 115,000 Soviet troops from Afghanistan beginning May 15.

Reagan affirmed the...
society of Newspaper Editors that "the United States will continue unchanged its support for the freedom fighters."

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) hailed the accord, saying the United States had achieved its main

by State Depart-
Legal adviser
Abraham D. Sofaer.

A U.S. official compared the Shultz oral declaration today with the Johnson administration's maneuver in obtaining North Korea's

Blasts Destroyed Tons of Arms

BLAST, From A33

least some of the munitions at the site, there is conflicting evidence on the cause of the explosions, which took at least 93 lives and left more than 1,100 wounded.

A diplomat in Islamabad today denied a press report in Washington that the Pakistani military has told the United States that three bombs exploded aboard a truck as it was about to be loaded. The diplomat said the U.S. Embassy had received no reports of sabotage of any type from Pakistani officials.

President Mohammed Zia ul-Haq and other officials have said in the past two days, however, that sab-

otage is one of the elements being probed by a special investigating committee.

A shopkeeper near the site said there was a small explosion, followed within a few minutes by a much larger blast, starting the chain-reaction explosions. A witness to the major explosion said it was immediately preceded by a huge fireball that rose several hundred feet into the air. The fireball might be consistent with reports that a fire began when a box of phosphorus was dropped.

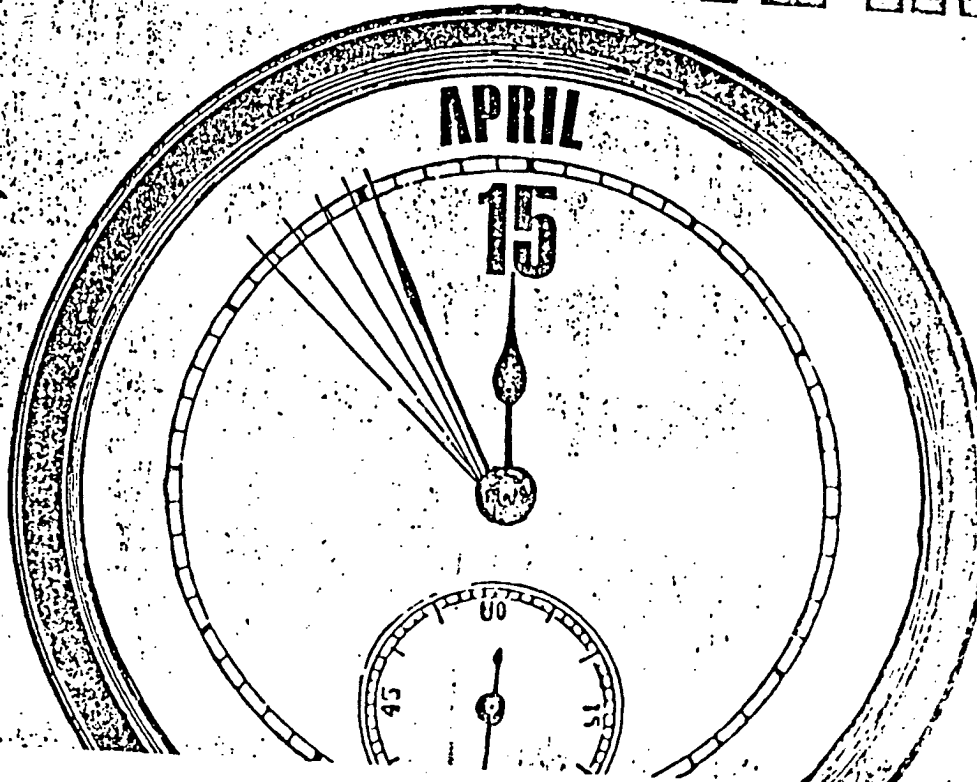
Staff writer David B. Ottaway contributed to this report from Washington.

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A. Yes. Announcements appear Wednesdays in the Style section. For more information please call Mrs. Gruen at 202/334-7640.

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Pakistan

Blasts Called Sabotage

By MICHAEL WINES,
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—The devastating explosions at a Pakistani ammunition dump that killed at least 93 people Sunday were triggered by a coordinated sabotage attack apparently carried out by supporters of the pro-Soviet regime in Afghanistan, sources Monday quoted Pakistani military officials as telling the United States.

The attack, seen by U.S. intelligence analysts as an escalation of the recent Soviet campaign to discourage Pakistan's support for the anti-Soviet rebels in Afghanistan, was touched off by three incendiary devices carried to the scene by trucks bearing Afghan license plates, these sources said.

The devices carried timed fuses and exploded in sequence, the Pakistani officials also have told U.S. officials.

Source of Rebel Arms

The U.S. sources, who refused to be identified, said the explosions wiped out a major source of CIA-supplied tactical assault weapons for the U.S.-backed *moujahedeen* resistance forces battling the Soviet-supported government of Najibullah in Afghanistan.

The weapons lost in the blast—including Stinger anti-aircraft missiles, anti-tank weapons, assault rockets and mines—leave the resistance critically short of the sort of arms needed to mount a final offensive against the Afghan capital of Kabul, two sources said.

American intelligence experts have said publicly that they expect the resistance to topple the Najibullah regime within six months of the planned withdrawal of the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops, scheduled to begin May 15.

Secretary of State George P. Shultz plans to fly to Geneva to sign a four-nation agreement Thursday withdrawing Soviet troops from Afghanistan in return for a U.S. pledge to eventually eliminate arms shipments to the *moujahedeen*.

CIA Involved in Deliveries

American weapons shipments to the resistance have been routed by the CIA through Pakistan and stored in ammunition dumps secured by the Pakistani military.

Sunday's apparent sabotage, which occurred as two other blasts rocked a Pakistani ammunition plant and a Saudi Arabian airline office in Pakistan, may be a Soviet warning to Pakistan that it will suffer if it allows continued U.S. arms shipments to Afghanistan, U.S. sources said.

"They've just gotten the first lesson from the Soviets in what happens if you don't control your border," one knowledgeable U.S. source said.

One U.S. official, noting that the resistance already has limited stocks of assault weapons inside Afghanistan, predicted Monday that the ammunition dump blast "will not lead to any immediate crimp, in the near term," in the resistance forces' fighting ability.

Other sources, however, maintained that the weapons destroyed Sunday are not manufactured in quantity and could prove difficult to replace quickly.

In addition, the explosion at a Pakistani ammunition factory in Lahore on Sunday destroyed part of a plant that manufactures bullets for the *moujahedeen*, U.S. sources said.

The apparent sabotage campaign comes on the heels of stern Soviet warnings to Pakistani officials in recent weeks to sign the four-nation Afghan peace accord and to abide by its terms. Sunday's explosions, U.S. sources agreed, do not appear to threaten prospects that Shultz and the Pakistanis will sign the pact, along with the Soviet Union and Afghanistan.

Congress May React Strongly

However, the apparent sabotage may stir strong reaction from Congress, which this year unanimously

passed a resolution calling for continued support for the *moujahedeen* until the Soviet Union withdraws its troops and ceases military aid to the Najibullah regime.

One senior U.S. official who insisted on anonymity said that the White House was likely to order an emergency replenishment of the assault weapons lost Sunday and to reassure the Pakistani government that American backing for its role in aiding the resistance would not waver.

However, he said, "this reminds everyone of the danger" that the Soviets would not abide by the agreement. "The Soviets are going to play hardball as they retreat, no doubt about that," he added.

A Pentagon official familiar with the sabotage reports said, "It was an inside job. They must have had someone inside. . . . It was done by the Soviets or their Afghan agents."

He said that the ammunition dump is under the control of Inter-Services Intelligence, the Pakistani intelligence agency, and has tight security. The ISI supervises supplies for the Afghan resistance forces, he said.

"It needs to have been a fairly well-planned operation. We can expect more things like this in the future," he said.

The official, who asked to remain anonymous, said that a sabotage attack would correspond with the Soviets' strategy of undermining Pakistani support for the Afghan rebels to protect the Afghan government as the Soviet troops prepare to withdraw.

Pakistan has served as a dispersal point for weapons that the United States has been funneling to the rebels.

'The Opening Shot'

"I see it as the opening shot in the campaign to intimidate Pakistan," the official said. "I think it is designed to convey a serious and brutal message to Pakistan: One, you better sign the [Soviet withdrawal] agreement quickly, and two, you better not get it into your head to supply the resistance."

Although the United States has said in conjunction with the new Soviet withdrawal agreement that it will continue to supply the rebels as long as the Soviets supply the Kabul regime, a breakdown in Pakistani cooperation in the U.S. weapons pipeline would be crucial.

The official said that it is not yet known what quantity of supplies the resistance lost in the blast. "It seems there was quite a bit there. What it does to the resistance, I'm not sure," he said.

President Zia ul-Haq, calling the explosion "an extraordinary accident," refused to speculate Monday about the cause of the fire. Zia, responding to reports that some of the ammunition was earmarked for Afghan rebels, said: "It's nothing but speculation—a high measure of speculation."